

Appl. No. : 09/555,951  
Filed : September 5, 2000

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22: canceled

23. (currently amended) A method of providing a mailbox answerphone service to a caller in a mobile communications system during a call directed to a directory number used commonly by different subscribers to access their mailboxes, wherein the answerphone service is located in a first network and is responsive to calls originating from within the first network and from within a second network connected to the first network via international telecommunications links, the method comprising:

providing an identification code identifying a mailbox associated with a subscriber through an the mailbox answerphone service; and

entering a first mode of mailbox answerphone operation for a call originating from within the first network and a second, different mode of mailbox answerphone operation for a call originating from within the second network, wherein the mailbox answerphone service enters either the first or the second mode of operation in dependence on information received during call establishment indicating whether the call is of international origin.

24. (previously presented)The method according to Claim 23, further comprising in said first mode of operation, if the call is not diverted, providing a message retrieval service, and if the call is diverted, providing a message deposit service.

25. (previously presented)The method according to Claim 24, further comprising determining whether the call is diverted using information received during call establishment.

26. (previously presented)The method according to Claim 23, further comprising providing in said second mode of operation either a message deposit service or a message retrieve service in dependence of a receipt of a selection indicator from said caller during the call.

27. (previously presented)The method according to Claim 26, further comprising in said second mode prompting said caller, after inputting said identification code during the call, for a voice message to be received and stored, and providing said message retrieve service if said indicator is received from said user.

28. (previously presented)The method according to Claim 26, wherein said indicator comprises a DTMF tone.

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29. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 23, further comprising prompting said caller for said identification code if said identification code is otherwise not associated with the call when received.

30. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 23, wherein said identification code corresponds to a directory number of said subscriber.

31. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 23, further comprising identifying a call of international origin through an international origin indicator in signaling associated with the call.

32. (currently amended) A method of providing a mailbox answerphone service to a caller in a mobile communications system during a call directed to a directory number used commonly by different subscribers to access their mailboxes comprising:

~~providing an identification code identifying a mailbox associated with a subscriber through an answerphone service; and~~

~~entering either a first mode of answerphone operation or a second, different mode of answerphone operation in dependence on information received during call establishment indicating whether the call is of international origin;~~

~~associating the call with a divert flag, a calling line identity (CLI) signal, and an international origin indicator;~~

setting a said divert flag if the call is diverted from a mobile station to the directory number ~~said apparatus~~ and said mobile station is located within a coverage area of said mobile communications system;

associating a said calling line identity (CLI) CLI signal with the call if the call originates or is diverted from a mobile station within said coverage area and said mobile station is preset to transmit said CLI signal; ~~and~~

associating an said international origin indicator with the call if the call originates or is diverted from a mobile station and said mobile station is used at a location causing said international origin indicator to be sent to said mobile communications system during call establishment;

providing an identification code identifying a mailbox associated with a subscriber through an answerphone service; and

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entering either a first mode of answerphone operation or a second, different mode of answerphone operation in dependence on information received during call establishment indicating whether the call is of international origin.

33. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 32, further comprising providing a message deposit service to said caller if said divert flag is set, and prompting in said message deposit service said caller for a voice message to be received and stored.

34. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 32, further comprising providing a message retrieve service to said caller if said divert flag is not set and said CLI is associated with the call, or said divert flag is not set, said CLI signal is not associated with the call, and identification code is received from said caller during the call, and in said retrieve service a stored voice message is retrieved and provided to said caller.

35. (currently amended) A method of providing a mailbox answerphone service to a caller in a mobile communications system during a call directed to a directory number used commonly by different subscribers to access their mailboxes, wherein the mailbox answerphone service is located in a first network and is responsive to calls originating from within the first network and from within a second network connected to the first network via international links, wherein the mailbox answerphone service is configured to enter a first mode of mailbox answerphone operation for a call originating from within the first network and a second, different mode of mailbox answerphone operation for a call originating from within the second network, the method comprising:

identifying, through an the mailbox answerphone service, a mailbox associated with a subscriber identification code; and

entering either the first or the second mode of mailbox answerphone operation in dependence on information received during call establishment indicating whether the call is of international origin.

36. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 35, further comprising deriving the origin of the call using information received during call establishment.

37. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 35, further comprising using said common directory number by all subscribers to access said answerphone service.

Claims 38-41: canceled

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42. (currently amended) A voice processing system for a mobile communications system, wherein the voice processing system is located in a first network and is responsive to calls originating from within the first network and from within a second network connected to the first network by international telecommunications links, wherein the voice processing system is configured to enter a first mode of mailbox answerphone operation for a call originating from within the first network and a second, different mode of mailbox answerphone operation in response to a call originating from within the second network, wherein the voice processing system is adapted to identify a mailbox associated with a subscriber by way of an identification code processed through ~~an~~ the mailbox answerphone service, and to enter either the first mode of mailbox answerphone operation or the second mode of mailbox answerphone operation in dependence on information received during call establishment indicating whether the call is of international origin.

Claims 43-44: canceled

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## SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

### Identification of Claims Discussed

Claims 23, 32, 35, and 42 were discussed.

### Identification of Prior Art Discussed

Sahni, U.S. Pat. No. 5,646,986.

### Proposed Amendments

Applicant's representative proposed amending claims 23, 35, and 42 to clarify that the "answerphone service" recited in the claims is the "mailbox answerphone service" recited in the preamble of each claim.

### Principal Arguments and Other Matters

With respect to the indefiniteness rejections of Claims 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Applicant's representative pointed out that the conditions preceding each use of the word "if" were different in the claim. Thus, separate "if" statements were required for each claimed feature.

Independent claims 23, 35 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Venturini (U.S. Pat. No. 5,987,317) in view of Sahni et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,646,986). The Office Action states that Venturini fails to disclose a second mode of answer service for an international call, and instead relies on Sahni to cure this deficiency, stating that "Sahni teaches an answering service with two modes [sic] operations local and international (column 7, lines 36-50)." Applicant has amended these claims in order to clarify that the "answerphone service" is a "mailbox answerphone service" as indicated in the preamble of each of the claims.

Applicant submits that Sahni does not disclose a mailbox answerphone service operating in a first mode and a second mode as provided in each of the independent claims. Rather, Sahni describes only a system in which trunks are allocated different on days in which call behavior varies from the expected norm, such as national holidays. Sahni does not describe a mailbox answerphone service at all, but rather describes a system in which an international call is intercepted, and the caller is informed of a holiday, at which time they may disconnect to continue the call. If the caller does not hang up, Sahni states that the call may go to an "answering service." However, the "answering service" in Sahni does not have two different modes. If a call is put through to the answering service, the same mode is used, regardless of the call's origin.

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Results of Interview

With respect to the indefiniteness rejection, it was agreed that Applicant would address the Examiner's concerns with respect to this claim in responding to the Office Action, and has done so below. In discussing the relevance of Sahni, U.S. Pat. No. 5,646,986, Applicant's representative and the Examiner agreed that Sahni does not cure the deficiencies of Venturini for at least the reasons described above.